

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

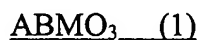
**This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application.**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide, which comprises the steps of:

preparing a precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide by mixing at least an organometal salt of elementary components constituting the perovskite-type composite oxide, including organometal salts of at least one noble metal, salt of a noble metal with another elementary component constituting the perovskite-type composite oxide, and

heat-treating the precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide;

wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide is a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of rare-earth elements, alkaline earth metals, and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al and transition metals excluding platinum group elements and rare-earth elements; and M represents one or more platinum group elements.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the other elementary components are prepared as alkoxides of the respective elements.

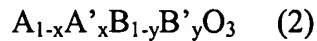
4. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the other elementary components are prepared as a coprecipitate of salts of the respective elements or a citrate complex of the respective elements.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the part of the elementary components is one or more noble metals.

6. (Original) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1, wherein the organometal salts of the elementary components are organic carboxylic acid salts of the elementary components and/or a metal complex of the elementary components including at least one selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -diketone compounds,  $\beta$ -ketoester compounds and  $\beta$ -dicarboxylic ester compounds.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[7]], wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide is a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (2):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, La and Nd; A' represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ce, Pr, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Al; and B' represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Rh, Pd, Ir, and Pt;

wherein x represents an atomic ratio satisfying the relation  $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$  and y represents an atomic ratio satisfying the relation:  $0 < y \leq 0.5$ .

9. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide, comprising:

preparing a precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide by a method comprising mixing

(A) an organometal solution comprising one or more organometal salts of elementary components of the perovskite-type composite oxide including organometal salts of at least one noble metal, and

(B) an alkoxide solution comprising one or more alkoxides of other elementary components of the perovskite-type composite oxide;

to form a homogenous mixed solution; and

heating the precursor to obtain a perovskite-type composite oxide.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said preparing further comprises precipitating the homogenous mixed solution on hydrolysis.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said preparing further comprises, distilling under reduced pressure to obtain the precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said heating is performed at a temperature of 500°C to 1000°C.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said heating is performed at a temperature of 500°C to 850°C under an oxidative atmosphere.